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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 IO-03 L-02 EUR-10

SSO-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SCI-03 DODE-00 ACDA-10 NEA-06 NASA-01 MC-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, TSPA, MILI, UN, CA, FR, NATO

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE - REGISTRATION OF SPACE OBJECTS

REFS; A. NATO 1541

B. STATE 53284

C. USUN 1097

1. AS INDICATED REF B, OBJECTIVE OF RAISING SPACE REGIS-
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TRATION ISSUE IN NATO CONTEXT WAS TO UNDERSCORE POLITICAL-MILITARY ASPECT OF PROBLEM WHICH HAS UP TO NOW BEEN TREATED AS NARROW UN LEGAL MATTER. INITIAL REPORTING FROM NEW YORK AND NATO CAPITALS INDICATES EFFORTS BY USNATO AND EMBASSIES HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO PRODUCE DESIRED RESULTS.

2. IT WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE NECESSARY TO PRESS REGISTRATION ISSUE TOO MUCH FURTHER IN THE NATO FORUM AT THIS TIME SINCE LOCUS OF ACTION IS NOW UN OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (LSC). HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING POINTS MAY BE USED IN SCHEDULED FOLLOW-UP PRESENTATION OF ISSUE IN POLADS MEETING APRIL 3.

A. USG VERY MUCH APPRECIATES THE UNDERSTANDING OF ITS NATO ALLIES RE SPACE REGISTRATION ISSUE.

B. IN PARTICULAR, USG APPRECIATES INDICATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR US DRAFT REGISTRATION CONVENTION CURRENTLY BEFORE LSC.

C. IT IS NOT THE INTENTION OF USG TO UNDERCUT THE OBJECTIVE OF CANADA AND FRANCE TO PRODUCE A SPACE REGISTRATION CONVENTION WHICH WOULD ENJOY BROAD INTERNATIONAL ADHERENCE. TO THE CONTRARY, USG PURPOSE IS TO PRODUCE A REGISTRATION CONVENTION, (1) WHICH USG CAN ACCEPT AND (2) WHICH HAS CHANCE OF BEING ADOPTED BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. US INTENTIONALLY BORROWED HEAVILY FROM CANADIAN-FRENCH DRAFT TO UNDERSCORE ITS DESIRE TO APPROACH PROBLEM ON COOPERATIVE BASIS.

D. WE HOPE OUR ALLIES WILL RECOGNIZE THE GREAT SENSITIVITY OF CERTAIN OF THESE US MILITARY SPACE ACTIVITIES.

E. IN GENERAL USG IS CONCERNED WITH SOME OF THE DETAILED REPORTING REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN THE CURRENT CANADIAN-FRENCH DRAFT CONVENTION WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE CERTAIN US MILITARY SPACE ACTIVITIES.

F. FOR EXAMPLE, USG IS NOT PREPARED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON "PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS" OF ITS SPACE
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OBJECTS OR TO PROVIDE "DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING ANY IDENTI-

FIABLE FEATURES, OF COMPONENTS LIKELY TO WITHSTAND REENTRY."

G. FURTHER, USG IS NOT PREPARED TO PROVIDE " EXPECTED DECAY OR REENTRY DATE, REENTRY TRAJECTORY AND LANDING OR IMPACT AREA" OF ITS SPACE OBJECTS. TO ATTEMPT TO DO SO WOULD POSE ALMOST INSURMOUNTABLE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS; WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL (AND PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE) INCREASE IN COMPUTER CAPACITY; WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLE; AND COULD JEOPARDIZE VITAL MILITARY SPACE ACTIVITIES. WHILE US HAS IN THE PAST VOLUNTEERED SOME OF THIS INFORMATION ABOUT ITS MANNED SPACE PROGRAM, IT CANNOT AGREE TO BEING REQUIRED BY TREATY TO PROVIDE SUCH DATA. CITATION OF PARALLEL POSITION OF JAPANESE (REF C) ON POINTS RAISED HERE AND IN PARA F ABOVE MIGHT BE USEFUL ELABORATION IN MISSION PRESENTATION.

H. USG HAS ON OCCASION (UNDER TIGHTLY CONTROLLED CONDITIONS AND FOR VERY RESTRICTED AUDIENCE) SHOWN SENIOR NATO REPRESENTATIVES SOME OF THE PRODUCT OF ITS MILITARY SPACE PROGRAM. WE THUS EXPECT THAT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ARE AWARE OF MORE DETAILED ASPECTS OF OUR PROBLEM.

3. MISSION MAY IN ADDITION REPORT THAT SOVIET UNION HAS

INDICATED IT VIEWS US DRAFT AS POSITIVE EFFORT AND WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO SUPPORT IT, " SUBJECT TO A FEW DETAILS."

4. IN EXPLAINING SPACE REGISTRATION PROBLEM ALONG LINES AUTHORIZED ABOVE, MISSION SHOULD AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO EXTENDED DEBATE OVER VARIOUS PROVISIONS ON GROUNDS THAT WE ARE OF COURSE GOING INTO SUBSTANCE OF REGISTRATION CONVENTION ITSELF IN NEW YORK. YOU MAY STATE USG VIEW THAT US DRAFT TREATY ESTABLISHES REPORTING SYSTEM THAT FULLY MEETS REAL AND UNDERSTANDABLE LIABILITY/ IDENTIFICATION CONCERNS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND NOTE THAT US ALREADY MAKES PUBLIC ON REGULAR BASIS SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO PERMIT IDENTIFICATION OF US SPACE DEBRIS. FURTHERMORE, US HAS PREVIOUSLY VOLUNTEERED TO ASSIST OTHER NATIONS TO IDENTIFY SPACE DEBRIS WHICH HAS CAUSED DAMAGE AND IN ARTICLE V OF US DRAFT PROPOSES TO UNDERTAKE TREATY
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OBLIGATION TO ASSIST ANY DAMAGED STATE TO IDENTIFY ORIGIN OF INJURY- OR DAMAGE- CAUSING DEBRIS AND THUS FACILITATE THE SET
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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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